

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01611 171204Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /041 W
-----171209Z 079101 /15

R 170820Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9923

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1611

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV MILITARY VISITS

REF: STATE 054251

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETING WITH DATT, FLS REPS OF DEFENSE
SECRETARIAT AGREED TO RESOLVE POTO CAR INVITATION ASAP
WITHOUT REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE CEMALOVIC VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. DATT CALLED ON FLS OF DEFENSE SECRETARIAT ON 15 MARCH
TO DISCUSS STATUS OF CJCS INVITATION TO GENERAL POTO CAR.
FLS REP POPOVIC ATTEMPTED TO PLACE CEMALOVIC VISIT BEFORE
POTO CAR, SAYING POTO CAR SCHEDULE WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL
DECEMBER. DATT POINTED OUT THIS WOULD KILL VISIT FOR 1977,
AT WHICH POINT POPOVIC BACKTRACKED. DATT CONVINCED POPOVIC
THAT OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM GOY TO GEN. BROWN'S INVITATION
WAS NECESSARY ASAP BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ANY DISCUSSION
OF A POSSIBLE CEMALOVIC VISIT. WHEN ASKED WHERE CEMALOVIC
INVITATION ORIGINATED, POPOVIC DODGED ISSUE BY AGREEING
THAT AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE WAS REQUIRED IN THE CASE OF POTO CAR
INVITATION, AND HE PROMISED EARLY ACTION ON THAT SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM FLS COMMENTS TO DATT, WE DO
NOT BELIEVE THE GOY IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT AN INVITATION
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WAS EXTENDED BY FORMER SCTY MCLUCAS TO CEMALOVIC IN 1975.
(EMBASSY'S ACCOUNT OF MCLUCAS VISIT, BELGRADE A-239,
JUNE 26, 1975, HAS NO INDICATION OF AN INVITATION TO
CEMALOVIC.) IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT INFORMAL INDICATION
BY GEN. BOWMAN TO COL. VUCKOVIC DURING 12 JANUARY CONVER-
SATION THAT AIR STAFF WAS WORKING ON POSSIBLE CEMALOVIC
VISIT PROVIDED GOY WITH OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE CEMALOVIC

VISIT, WHILE CONTINUING SILENCE ON POTO CAR DECISION.

4. FOR SOME REASON, YUGOSLAVS CONTINUE TO HEDGE ON POTO CAR INVITATION--WE SUSPECT STARCEVIC INDICATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO POTO CAR VISIT THIS YEAR IS CORRECT AND THAT YUGOSLAVS AS IS FREQUENTLY THE CASE SIMPLY DO NOT WANT TO TELL US "NO". WE ARE SATISFIED WITH CURRENT UNDERSTANDING WITH GOY, THAT OFFICIAL RESPONSE ON POTO CAR WILL BE FORTH-COMING SOON, AND CEMALOVIC INVITATION, WHEN COORDINATED AND APPROVED, WILL BE OFFICIALLY PRESENTED TO GOY.

5. REQUEST THAT DOD AND CJCS BE ADVISED OF CONTENTS OF MESSAGE. DATT WILL REPORT TO ALL CONCERNED WHEN OFFICIAL RESPONSE IS RECEIVED FROM GOY.
YORK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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